Interest Groups POS3463 ARV1 / AV59

Pollock / Summer B 2013

Office	302 Phillips Hall
Office hours	M&W: 4:30-5:50
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Books	[1] Lowery and Brasher ("L&B"), *Organized Interests and American Government* [2] Custom book ("CB"), compiled by Pollock Purchase this book via the link on the course site

Interest groups occupy a paradoxical place in American politics—essential to pluralist democracy, yet widely seen as a threat to it. By one perspective, interest organizations are manifestations of the underlying biases in the social structure. By another perspective, groups are signs of inclusiveness and democratic mobilization. This course explores the theoretical and empirical bases for these (and other) competing views of interest groups. The basic text, Lowery and Brasher (L&B) covers all major topics in interest group politics: organization and maintenance, lobbying and policy, and proposals for reform. The Custom Book (CB) is a compilation of in-depth analyses and case studies drawn from Cigler and Loomis's edited volume, *Interest Group Politics*. These readings illuminate key points made by the basic text. Other course resources include real-time and video-streamed lectures, Power Point presentations, posted articles, and supplemental material.

There is a real-time section of the course (ARV1), which has a room (CL1-Rm 218) and time (M&W, 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.), and a recorded section (AV59), which is fully online. During the real-time meetings, my lectures will be recorded on video, which you can subsequently view by accessing the Tegrity link on the course site. Despite the format difference, the requirements for both sections are the same. **Physical attendance is not required**. All course material will be equally available to both sections online. All quizzes and exams will be online.

Grades. Your grade will be based on online **quizzes** (30 percent of course grade) and online **exams** (70 percent of course grade). During the term, you will take **four quizzes.** I will drop your lowest quiz score. Your three best quiz scores will count 30 percent of your course grade. You will take **two exams**. Each of your exams will count 35 percent of your course grade. Scheduling and time parameters of the quizzes and exams:

Quiz or Exam	Open day / date / time	Close day / date / time	Reading/lecture material covered
Quiz 1	Th /May 16 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 19/11 p.m.	May 13, May 15
Quiz 2	Th /May 23 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 26/11 p.m.	May 20, May 22
Exam 1	Th /May 30/ 8 a.m.	Sun / June 2 /11 p.m.	May 13, 15, 20, 22, 29
Quiz 3	Th /June 6 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 9/11 p.m.	June 3, June 5
Quiz 4	Th /June 13 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 16/11 p.m.	June 10, June 12
Exam 2	Mon /June 17/9 p.m.	Fri/June 21/11 p.m.	June 3, 5, 10, 12, 17

Note: No lectures will be recorded on May 27 or June 19.

Quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple-choice format. The quizzes will test you on material that has been covered in the reading and in lecture. For example, Quiz 1, which opens on May 16, will cover material presented in the reading and lectures for May 13 and May 15. Quizzes 2, 3, and 4 are based on the same rationale: do the reading, view the lecture, and then take the quiz. Within the availability window, there is no limit on the amount of time you may take to complete the quizzes. **However, you must take each quiz during the scheduled availability window.** I will drop your lowest quiz score. Your three best quiz scores will count 30 percent of your course grade.

Exams. The exams will have multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. These are non-cumulative exams. The first exam, which opens on May 30, will cover material from the lectures of May 13, 15, 20, 22, and 29. The second exam, which opens June 17, will cover material from June 3, 5, 10, 12, and 17. Within the availability window, there is no limit on the amount of time you may take to complete the exams. **However, you must take each exam during the scheduled availability window.**

If you wish discuss your exam: Come to my office during office hours. If you have a question about how your exam was graded: Bring the following materials to my office—your textbook, your notes on the reading, and the notes you have written while viewing the lecture.

I do not give extra credit.

You must work alone in completing the quizzes and exams. Giving or receiving assistance on any quiz or exam constitutes a violation of Academic Behavior Standards as specified in UCF's Rules of Conduct (UCF-5.008). Any student who violates these standards will receive an F in the course.

Grading Scale. Your course grade will be determined by this numeric scale:

>=90	86-89	80-85	76-79	70-75	66-69	60-65	<=59
A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

[Syllabus continues on next page…]

Schedule for the term:

Lecture:	**Topic:**	**Reading**:∞
May 13	Interest groups in American politics	L&B ch1 Madison (posted)
May 15	Group mobilization	L&B ch2 Hayes, "The New Group Universe" (posted)
May 16-19*	**Quiz 1**	
May 20 May 22	Group maintenance I	CB ch1 [Cigler and Loomis, "The Changing Nature of Interest Group Politics"] CB ch2 [Nownes and Cigler, "Big-Money Donors to Environmental Groups: What They Give and What They Get"]
May 23-26*	**Quiz 2**	
May 29	Group maintenance II	CB ch3 [Bosso and Rodrigues, "Emerging Issues, New Organizations: Interest Groups and the Making of Nanotechnology Policy"] CB ch4 [Patterson and Singer, "Targeting Success: The Enduring Power of the NRA"]
May 30-June 2*	**Exam 1**	
June 3	Interest group communities	L&B ch3 CB ch5 [Heaney, "Identity Crisis: How Interest Groups Struggle to Define Themselves in Washington"] CB ch6 [Strolovitch, "A More Level Playing Field or a New Mobilization of Bias? Interest Groups and Advocacy for the Disadvantaged"]
June 5	Interest groups and the public	L&B ch4 CB ch7 [Guth et al, "Getting the Spirit? Religious and Partisan Mobilization in the 2004 Elections"]
June 6-9*	**Quiz 3**	
June 10	Lobbying the legislature	L&B ch5 Chin, Bond, and Geva: "A Foot in the Door" (posted) CB ch8 [Godwin et al, "Is Corporate Lobbying Rational or Just a Waste of Money?"]
June 12	Lobbying the executive	L&B ch6
June 13-16*	**Quiz 4**	
June 17	Lobbying the courts	L&B ch7
June 17-21*	**Exam 2**	

*See second page of this syllabus for precise dates and times.
∞Additional reading may be assigned at instructor discretion.
Note: No lectures will be recorded on May 27 or June 19.